Philo 49
Final Paper Assignment
Spring 2007

* Take and defend a position on a controversial issue *of your choice*.
* The topic must be broad enough to be genuinely controversial but specific enough to be covered in the space allowed.
* Your paper should be seven pages *minimum*.
* You must include at least two print sources and at least two internet sources. You should use the research component of this paper to learn about the existing arguments for and against your position.
* You must explain and have developed responses to arguments against your own position within your paper.

The grading criteria will be as follows:

1) Choice of topic or thesis (and a clear thesis statement)
2) Neutral Tone
3) Balance of Presentation
4) Organization
5) Originality
6) Accuracy
7) Correct use of language
8) Strength of Argumentation
9) Thorough Research
10) Format / Neatness

This paper will be done in three stages: an outline, a rough draft, and a final version. Each of these components will comprise part of your final paper grade (see below). We will be working on these components together as a class, so you must be present on the dates below to receive credit for the preliminary work.

May 15/16: Paper outlines due (10% of grade)
May 22/23: Rough drafts due (10% of grade)
May 29/30: Final papers due (80% of grade) with homework packet.